



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed September 22, 2004, the Applicant, through his attorney, responds as follows.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 6 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 7 of this paper.